

REMARKS

Claims 39-76 are currently pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 39, 58, 69, and 73 are independent.

Request for Acknowledgement of Prior Replacement Drawings

Applicant mailed replacement drawings on March 1, 2004 and respectfully requests acknowledgement as to whether such drawings have been accepted.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, restriction to either subject matter corresponding to claims 1-6, 13-15, 21-23, and 29-32 (Group I) or subject matter corresponding to claims 7-12, 16-20, 24-28, and 33-38 (Group II) is required.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, subject matter corresponding to Group II and respectfully submits such subject matter now corresponds to at least new claims 39-52, 56-63, and 67-76.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this restriction requirement because subject matter corresponding to Group I is no longer claimed independently of subject matter corresponding to Group II. Rather, subject matter corresponding to Group I is now only claimed, for example in dependent claims 53-55 and 64-66, in combination with subject matter corresponding to Group II. Applicant respectfully submits that no restriction requirement would have been made had new claims 39-76 been originally presented in this application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite the prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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